REMARKS

The undersigned thanks Examiner Thomas for the interview which took place on February 19, 2010. This amendment makes the substance of the interview of record in the case.

Claims 1 to 9 remain active in this application without amendment. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 5 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0039116 of Hashimoto (hereinafter Hashimoto) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,327,051 of Moro et al. (hereinafter Moro) and further in view of U.S. Application Publication No. 2003/0025928 of Nagasawa at al. (hereinafter Nagasawa). Claims 2 and 6 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto in view of Moro and Nagasawa as stated above and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,971,732 of Seshimo et al. (hereinafter Seshimo) and in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,504,619 of Kageyama et al. (hereinafter Kageyama). Claim 7 was rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto in view of Moro, Seshimo and Nagasawa as stated above. Claims 8 and 9 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto in view of Moro, Seshimo and Nagasawa and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,799,206 of Kitagawa et al. (hereinafter Kitagawa). Each of these rejections is traversed.

During the interview it was agreed that Hashimoto does not include a feature similar to the setting unit, and that the Nagasawa reference does not supply a feature similar to the setting unit, and that the Examiner would conduct an additional search on this feature. If new references are identified, prosecution should be re-opened. If new references not identified, the case should be passed to issue.

Object of the invention

The present invention relates to a printer device. More particularly, the present invention relates to a printer device which allows the user to set error recovery

methods and a corresponding storing medium storing a control program therefore.

The inventive printer, as claimed, comprises a numerous elements in combination which support the functionality of allowing the user of the printer to set error recovery methods for each error category of predetermined errors and, if an error occurs, which support the functionality of performing one of the error recovery methods which was set by the user to the error category of happened error which happened. During the interview, it was noted that Figure 5 of the application shows, for exemplary purposes, several categories of errors. Further, it was noted that Figure 2 of the application shows an input screen where the user can select what happens when different categories of errors are encountered. For example Figure 2 shows, by example, that a user could select printing continues automatically when font selection errors are encountered, but printing does not continue automatically when sheet size mismatch errors are encountered. It will be recognized by those of skill in the art that the number and types of categories of errors can vary, and that the selections made by the user can vary and are determined by the user. Hence, with the invention, the user has the ability to select for categories of errors what action he or she wants the printer to perform (he or she is not required to make a selection for each and every type of error; rather, he or she is selecting from among categories that could include one or many types of errors). In addition, he or she can choose to have the printer automatically print or not print depending on the category of error encountered.

To support this functionality, the printer comprises in combination a print unit that performs a print operation to print images. The print unit is arranged to print the images on an appropriate medium based on operatable print data. The printer comprises also an error detecting unit that detects predetermined errors during the print operation. A predetermined error occurs if the inputted print data are other than the operatable print data. Further, the printer comprises a categorizing unit that categorizes the detected predetermined into one of a plurality of given error categories based on the nature of the predetermined error. Each category includes a plurality of different predetermined errors.

Furthermore, the inventive printer comprises a setting unit which allows the

user to set error recovery methods for each of the plurality of error categories. The error recovery methods include (i) an automatic print continuation and (ii) a recovery by user's operation. This setting (error recovery method - error category) is stored in a memory as correspondence data indicating the setting. As noted during the interview, the ability to set operations for categories of print errors as is shown by example in Figures 2 and 3, and is discussed in the application at page 9, line 12 to page 11, line 10 (and elsewhere) distinguishes the claimed invention from all references of record.

If a print error is detected by the error detecting unit, a method detecting unit detects the error recovery method selected by said user corresponding to the categorized error category with reference to the corresponding data stored in the memory. In other words, the error category of the detected print error is ascertained and, based on the ascertained error category, the error recovery method set by the user to the ascertained error category is detected by the method detecting unit. If the appropriate error recovery method is detected, an error recovery unit of the printer executes an error recovery procedure according to the error recovery method.

Prior Art

The Examiner refers primarily the Hashimoto reference. Hashimoto relates to a printing machine having a plurality of image formation units which function in a method of reporting an error in the printing operation. In paragraph [0008], Hashimoto discloses that printing machines could classify print errors into printing operation halting errors and printing operation continuable errors. Further, Hashimoto discloses a printing machine that performs print operations to print images on a printing sheet and an error detection unit which serves to detect an error occurring in the printing machine (see [0015] - [0021]). In paragraph [0019] of Hashimoto states, that Hashimoto's printing machine comprises a storage device which stores an error classifying table in which errors occurring in the printing machine are classified. The errors are classified into at least one error with which the printing operation can be continued and at least one error with which the printing operation cannot be

continued. Furthermore, Hashimoto's printing device comprises a control unit which judges whether or not an occurred error is an error with which the printing operation can be continued or an error with which the printing operation cannot be continued (see paragraph [0021]). However, Hashimoto does not disclose the setting unit of the present invention (or any comparable device or operation).

The Examiner concludes erroneously that there is a setting unit in Hashimoto's printing machine. The setting unit of the present invention allows the user to set an error recovery method for each error category of predetermined errors. In contrast, Hashimoto's printing machine distinguishes two error categories, errors with which the printing operation can be continued and errors with which the printing operation cannot be continued (see paragraph [0071] cited by the Examiner). However, this classification does not mean or imply that there is a setting unit. Hashimoto discloses even that an error is classified into one of the two classifications. This classification, however, is not changeable by the user. In sharp contrast, to change the error recovery method setting is an important feature of the present invention to simplify the error handling in printing operations. Therefore, Hashimoto does not disclose or otherwise suggest a setting unit to set error recovery methods for each error category by the user.

Nagasawa does not make up for the deficiencies of Hashimoto. Nagasawa relates to an image output device and method to print image data sent from multiple image data sources (see paragraph [0003]). If an error occurs, the operation is suspended until a recovery waiting period is elapsed. The recovery waiting period has the effect that the user can deal with the problem without having to rush (see paragraph [0038]). Furthermore, the recovery waiting period can be changed by the user to optimize the use of the device (see also paragraph [0038]).

The Examiner erroneously concludes the changing of the recovery waiting period is akin on the concept of setting and updating recovery conditions. However, this opinion is in error. The recovery waiting period disclosed in Nagasawa is used when an error has occurred and the print operation cannot be continued, for example, if a paper jam is occurred. In this case, the error is handled as an error which cannot

be continued. The recovery waiting period specifies how long the print operation is suspended. Therefore, the recovery waiting period is used after the error recovery procedure is performed. To change the recovery waiting period, however, does not change the recovery method settings. The recovery waiting period is not an error recovery method or similar to this.

In contrast to the Examiner's conclusion, it would not have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to put forth a printer with an setting unit to change the error recovery methods for each error category. Neither Hashimoto nor Nagasawa disclose a setting unit to set the error recovery methods for each error category by the user. Rather, the Examiner attempts to reconstruct the Applicant's claimed invention based on an impermissible hindsight and, further, the reconstruction fails because neither reference provides the setting unit or shows or teaches setting the error reovery methods for each error category by the user.

The additional references cited in the office action have not been relied on for this teaching, and, in fact, do not make up for this deficiency. Moro relates to a printing control apparatus and method which make ti possible so set the values of functions possessed by a printing device, wherein printing information for controlling the operation of the printing device is delivered to the printing device to control the same. As conceded in the office action, Moro does not disclose a setting unit to set error recovery methods for each error category.

In conclusion, neither Hashimoto nor Nagasawa nor Moro disclose or otherwise suggest a printer with a setting unit to set an error recovery method for each error category. Hence, the present invention is patentable over Hashimoto in view of Nagasawa and Moro in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Furthermore, none of the other references of record have been relied on for showing the features missing from Hashimoto, Nagasawa and Moro, and in fact do not show the features. Therefore, all claims in the application should be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as stated above.

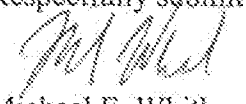
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 1 to 9 be allowed, and that the application be passed to

issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

A provisional petition is hereby made for any extension of time necessary for the continued pendency during the life of this application. Please charge any fees for such provisional petition and any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael E. Whitham
Reg. No. 32,635

Whitham, Curtis, Christofferson & Cook, P.C.
11491 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 340
Reston, VA 20190

Tel. (703) 787-9400
Fax. (703) 787-7557

Customer No.: 30743